

Council Committee Members Aloha:

I am in support of Bill 13.

2017 MAR -7 PM 1:04

My name is Dennis Freitas. I live in Kaneohe and yet here I am advocating for the residents who live in the Senior Residence at Iwilei (SRI). I do this because 3 years ago, at my urging, I was responsible for moving a dear friend into SRI. As I visit quite often I soon became acquainted with and made friends with many of the residents there. I am acutely aware of their problem with the homeless situation. I am here to speak on their behalf.

Three years ago SRI opened its doors to our kapuna who are over 62 years old. 160 units. Surprisingly there was no wait list. That had to be a first. Just over 60 units were filled on its opening. It took a whole year to fill the remaining units. A YEAR! And now on a monthly basis people are moving out. Why? SRI is a new building that boasts modern, nice roomy affordable 1 and 2 bedroom units with many amenities. The views are spectacular, if not a bit noisy from traffic. It's on a bus route and is a short walk to Chinatown and downtown Honolulu. SRI offers various types of assistance to its occupants and there are additional agencies in the building that serve other outside kapuna for that purpose. It even houses a senior day care center. So why the high turnover?

The obvious answer: the takeover of Iwilei by the homeless. On the onset the residents were assured that the homeless population would be held at bay. An empty promise.... The homeless situation in Iwilei has become deplorable. I have provided a few pictures for those of you not "personally" aware of the situation there.

Look at the pictures. This is what bus riding tourists see as well as those that frequent the area. More important, this is what the residents of SRI and the area businesses have to put up with on a daily basis. The pictures I provided show the extent of their presents. The pictures are of Iwilei Rd in front of or around SRI as well as one of Sumner St where Kmart used to be. That is the worst area. When the 3 new stores open in a few months will the homeless move to new areas in and about Iwilei? If they do I'm sure most will move to the areas fronting or around SRI.

As I write this the kapuna in SRI are daily subjected to loud, unruly noise every night from the homeless across the street making it impossible to sleep. They see the homeless urinate/defecate and have sex in and about their residence. They have to put up with all their unsightly opala. They are not able to use the sidewalks and bus stops. The homeless are even so bold as to block a lane of traffic with their processions and even their cars. People who live, work and visit the area are uncomfortable and in constant fear for their safety.

The police try to help, but they often cannot answer the 911 calls in a timely manner. When they do they try their best to remedy the situation but often are at a loss to help as their hands are tied. We ask that you untie them through Bill 13.

Facility Maintenance makes weekly sweep; a fruitless function at best. The homeless move across the street as their opals are cleared. Ten minutes after Facility Maintenance crews leave they return. It is if the homeless have their own taxpayer sponsored trash pickup and now we learn the mayor wants to charge us a \$10 a month fee. Then there is IHS. IHS is at a loss as the homeless in the area are a hindrance to their operation. They intimidate those that actually come to IHS seeking assistance. Council members, the homeless in Iwilei do NOT want help as it is offered to them on a daily basis. They refuse all assistance. They have no desire to pull themselves up to a better life. They are druggies, alcoholics; mentally ill and just lazy malcontents that have chosen this lifestyle. They are blight to our City and a drain on our taxpaying dollars. They have no respect for themselves much less others. *And we coddle them...*

Those who are affected by their actions are the ones that need the City's help. Bill 13 is a step in that direction until a final solution is found. Bill 13 allows them to sleep on the sidewalks from 11pm to 5am. This means no longer will they set up a semi-permanent camp. The argument is made that that Bill 13 will only move the problem to another area. True. Where and when does it end before we seek a permanent solution; maybe when it affects you.....?



